

c) Authority Adds A Sense Of Purpose To What We Do

2 Corinthians 10:8; 13:10, NIV – (8) *For even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than pulling you down, I will not be ashamed of it. ... (10) *This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority -- the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.**

4. Adult – Maturity

a) Maturity Causes Us To Remain Strong And Courageous Through Every Challenge

Ephesians 4:13-14, NIV – (13) *... until we ... become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (14) Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.*

James 1:6, NIV – *But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.*

b) Maturity Causes Us To Persevere Through Every Difficulty

James 1:4, NIV – *Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

c) Maturity Causes Us To Avoid All Of Life's Distractions

Luke 8:14, NIV – *The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.*

d) Maturity Causes Us To Discern Correctly

Hebrews 5:14, NIV – *But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*

SUMMARY

Ephesians 1:11, NIV – *In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will.*

- Intimacy – with Him.
 - Identity – in Him.
 - Authority – from Him.
 - Maturity – through Him.
- Bring us to our Destiny – for Him.

PATHWAY TO DESTINY

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1 Corinthians 15:46, NIV – *“The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.”*

1. INFANCY – INTIMACY

a) Intimacy With God Is The Fundamental Reality Of The Christian Life

John 17:3, NIV – *Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

- Eternal life is primarily about the incredible privilege of knowing God intimately, even here and now

b) Intimacy Is About Knowing God In Every Aspect Of His Person

Philippians 3:10, NIV – (8) *What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ (9) and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ -- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. (10) I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, (11) and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

c) Intimacy Is About Knowing The Reality Of His Presence In Us

John 14:17, NIV - *...The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*

Ephesians 3:20, NIV – *“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.”*

d) Intimacy Is About Gazing Into His Face

Psalm 27:8, NIV – *My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face, LORD, I will seek.*

e) Intimacy Is The Real Requirement For Heaven

Matthew 7:21-23, NIV – (21) “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (22) Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ (23) Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you.’”

- Heaven is for those who have come to know the king of heaven, before they get there.

f) Intimacy Is About Learning To Hear The Voice Of God

John 10:27, NIV – *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*

2. CHILDHOOD – IDENTITY

a) Identity Gives Us A Sense Of Acceptance

Romans 9:25-26, NIV – (25) *As he says in Hosea: “I will call them my people who are not my people; and I will call her my loved one who is not my loved one,” (26) and, “It will happen that in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people’, they will be called sons of the living God.”*

b) Identity Gives Us A Sense Of Belonging

2 Corinthians 6:18, NIV - “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”

Galatians 4:6, NIV – *Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”*

c) Identity Gives Us A Sense Of Being Pleasing To God

Ephesians 1:5, NIV – *He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.*

d) Identity Gives Us A Sense Of Inheritance

Romans 8:17, NIV – *Now if we are children, then we are heirs -- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

e) Identity Gives Us A Sense Of Expectation

Romans 8:19, NIV – *The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.*

g) Identity Gives Us A Sense Of Privilege

Galatians 4:5, NIV – ... *that we might receive the full rights of sons.*

Matthew 7:11, NIV – *If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*

h) Identity Gives Us A Sense Of Freedom

Romans 8:21, NIV - ... *brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.*

i) Identity Gives Us An Increased Ability To Receive The Unconditional Love Of God

1 John 3:1, NIV – *How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!*

3. Teen/Young Adult – Authority

a) Authority Adds Power To Our Words

Matthew 7:29, NIV – ... *He [Jesus] taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.*

b) Authority Builds Faith In Our Lives

Matthew 10:1, NIV – *He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.*

Luke 10:19, NIV – *I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; ...*

Mark 16:17-18, NIV – (17) *And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; (18) ... they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.*